

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2006

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

COUNTRY Panama REPORT NO. [REDACTED]
SUBJECT Activities of the Family of Former President Jose Ramon GUIZADO DATE DISTR. 24 October 1955
NO. OF PAGES 3 (b) (1)
DATE OF INFO. 9 July - 20 September 1955 REQUIREMENT NO. RD (b) (3)
PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] REFERENCES (C)
DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. During the past three months the family and supporters of Jose Ramon GUIZADO have become increasingly active in their campaign to clear GUIZADO's name and to effect his release from prison, where he is serving a sentence of six years and eight months. [REDACTED] said that approximately \$200,000 was being spent on this campaign, which will reach a climax in October, when the National Assembly reconvenes. In this campaign members of the families of GUIZADO and Rodolfo ST. MALO, the alleged intermediary between GUIZADO and the assassins, are expected to publish evidence incriminating others. [REDACTED] has a copy of [REDACTED] letter which was written by Ruben O. MIRO, the confessed assassin, in which MIRO proclaims the innocence of GUIZADO and in which MIRO's position in the assassination is clarified. [REDACTED] said that before the trial MIRO's mother, who has the original letter, sent a copy to Harmodio ARIAS, who sent copies to President Ricardo ARIAS Espinosa, Alejandro REMON, Minister of Government and Justice, and the National Assembly. [REDACTED] said that Roberto "Tito" ARIAS, Panamanian Ambassador to Great Britain, was implicated in the assassination because of an illegal international monetary transaction which allegedly took place between him and Irving Martin Lipstein.
2. [REDACTED] said that the GUIZADOS had recently received information, for which they paid \$10,000, which consisted of statements from two witnesses who were present at a meeting [REDACTED] during which Jose Ramon GUIZADO's implication in the assassination was discussed. At an opportune time these witnesses will testify about this meeting.
3. Jose Ramon "Mon" GUIZADO, Jr., the son of the former President, left Panama City on 29 July 1955 for Miami, Florida, en route to Washington, D. C., where he planned to conduct family business. Felipe Juan ESCOBAR, GUIZADO's lawyer, implied that he had been consulted by Mon GUIZADO before his trip to the United States, and he had advised Mon as to whom he should approach while there. ESCOBAR also said that the GUIZADOS believe that the narcotics traffic was involved in the assassination and that GUIZADO will decide whether or not he is released from prison.

~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

STATE	EV	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#X	AEC	TREAS	#X
(CINCARIB)													

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

4. [] said that when Mon GUIZADO returned from the United States Mon said that Russell Chatham, the U. S. investigator who was hired by the Panamanian Government to investigate the assassination, had told him that all the members of the Investigating Committee, including the two detectives from New York, had been bribed by the Panamanian Government, and that the only foreign investigators to be trusted were Israel CASTELLANOS, the Cuban, and Hernan MENDEZ, the Venezuelan. When Mon was in Cuba CASTELLANOS told him that Chatham and MENDEZ were the only reliable persons on the committee. [] said that Chatham, who is assisting the GUIZADO family in its campaign, will try to interest a friend of his in the Narcotics Division and will then provide the GUIZADO family with more valuable data.¹
5. [] discussed a recent article about the assassination which appeared in Bohemia magazine and certain statements which were published by Gaspar BILO Mendez. [] believes that it is significant that no leading Panamanian Government official has refuted any of BILO Mendez' statements. [] also believes that in BILO Mendez' reference to a diplomat and a top official of the Panama Secret Police (PSP) he meant Roberto ARIAS and Jorge Luis ALFARO, former Chief of the PSP. [] also said that ALFARO lived beyond his means for the position he held and he believed that ALFARO was involved in some illicit activity. With regard to this matter, [] said that Russell Chatham told him that ALFARO had made many inexplicable trips to Peru.
6. []
7. [] said that the GUIZADO family has been offered assistance in the form of arms and ammunition for a coup d'etat at any time that the family wants it. [] also said that the offer came from some high official in the Costa Rican Government, but he denied that it was President Jose FIGUERES. The offer was refused because the GUIZADO family believes that it can accomplish its purpose without recourse to such means.
8. With regard to the pro-GUIZADO propaganda which had been appearing in the Panamanian press, particularly in El Dia, [] said that the Panamanian Government was trying to suppress the violent criticism of its officials. President ARIAS approached one of the shareholders of El Dia who is pro-GUIZADO and threatened to ruin him financially if he did not dispose of his shares of stock in the newspaper. GUIZADO said that his family owns El Dia stock valued at \$10,000, and the family has been [] additional shares valued at \$4,000.
9. [] said that the GUIZADO family was debating whether or not to answer some of the remarks made by President ARIAS in his speech on 24 August. The family decided to publish an article in the New York Times stating that the trial was a travesty, because President ARIAS in his speech had quoted the New York press as commenting that the trial had been a just one.
10. Moises TORRIJOS, brother of Deputy Hugo TORRIJOS and friend of Ernesto DE LA GUARDIA, Jr., said that when DE LA GUARDIA, Jr. accedes to the Presidency he will grant amnesty to GUIZADO, ST. MALO, and Luis Carlos HERNANDEZ, and he will send MIRO to Coiba without a trial.
11. [] said that the GUIZADO family had recently received a letter from DIAMOND (Inu), who verified the fact that Representative Harold Velde had arrived in the Canal Zone as an official representative of President Eisenhower with regard to the narcotics traffic.² [] said that DIAMOND is a wealthy, influential Republican in Washington.

Field Comments

1. The Panamanian press reported that a rally sponsored by the Central Committee for Justice for Jose Ramon GUIZADO was held on 28 September 1955. ESCOBAR

and Guillermo MARQUEZ, the attorneys for GUIZADO, spoke on the necessity for the revision of the trial, and Russell Chatham was quoted as saying that he would like to return to Panama because he could "get to the bottom of the question".

2. It was reported in the article in Bohemia written by Armando CRUZ Cobos that Representative Harold Velde arrived in the Canal Zone on 2 December 1954 in his position of Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and met with President REMON at the Tivoli Hotel to discuss the narcotics traffic.